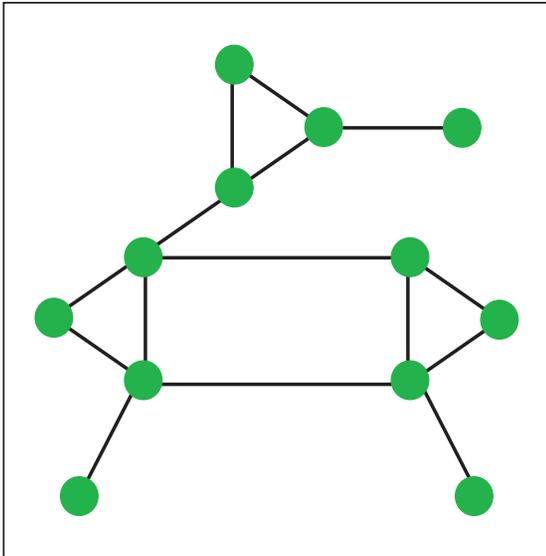


Matrix

An activity to explore networks, connections, interdependency and information flow



Sometimes individuals in organisations and complex networks will need to consider the needs of others as well as their own individual targets. The Matrix activity offers opportunities to explore the effectiveness of different matrix, cell and linear reporting systems while also offering the chance to model organisational networks and flows of information or resources around them.

This activity involves working within a collaborative system in which every individual has a specific target that can only be achieved through co-operation with others. The system has strictly enforced rules that must be followed at all times. Participants attempt to achieve their individual goals, whilst also supporting others in achieving their targets.

The activity raises questions about flows of information, channels of communication and organisational structures. It offers opportunities to explore the effectiveness of different matrix, cell and linear reporting systems.

In Matrix, up to sixteen participants are placed in a network in which they are connected to each other via extended cords on belts, to other people in the network. The rope connections are the supply chains across which they can send and receive resources in order to complete the personal targets they have been set, and collect the correct coloured resources in the correct order.

Individuals within the group are trying to complete their personal targets in order for the organisation to achieve its goal, according to some strict rules on how the communication channels or supply lines are set up. Each individual must obtain a series of coloured links in a specific order but can only network with those that they are physically connected with.



Planning for individual completion and exit from the system is important, to ensure that the achievement of individual targets does not compromise the ability of the wider organisation to succeed.

How/when to use:

- To explore the balance between individual/team organisational targets
- To consider how best to contribute individual effort to a team task
- To understand the importance of correct and complete team briefing and effective on-going communication in achieving shared goals
- To understand how to design effective networks and avoid problems in internal supply chains
- To explore appropriate management and leadership

To add MATRIX to your resource library:

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